so I pulled off my clothes, for the weather was hot to extremity, and took to the water. But when 1 came to the ship, my difficulty was still greater to know how to get on board; for as she lay aground and high out of the •water, there was nothing within my reach to lay hold of.

I swam round her twice, and the second time I spied a small piece of rope, which I wondered 1 did not see at first, hang down **by** the fore-chains, so low that with great difficulty 1 got hold of it, and by the help of that rope, got up into the forecastle of the ship. Here I found that the ship was bulged, and had a great deal of water in her hold, but .that she lay so on the side of a bank of hard sand, or rather earth, and her stern lay lifted up upon the bank, and her head low almost to the water. By this means all her quarter was free, and all that was in that part was dry; for you may be sure my first work was to search and to see what was spoiled, and what was free. And first I found that all

the ship's
provisions were dry and, being
hungry, I
went to the bread room and filled
my pockets
with biscuit, and ate it as I went
about, for I
had no time to lose. Now I
wanted nothing